

# Important Information

## *Transporting Your Vaccines from the Chemist*

To be effective as protection against disease, vaccines must be stored and transported in a way that maintains their temperature in the range of 2°C - 8°C.

Vaccines are delicate substances that can become less effective or destroyed if they are:

- frozen;
- allowed to get too hot; or
- exposed to direct sunlight or fluorescent light.

Once vaccines have been damaged the process cannot be reversed.

The best way to ensure your vaccine/s is safe is to pick-up the vaccine/s from the chemist on the way to your doctor's appointment (preferably in a cryovac bag supplied by the pharmacist). On arrival at your doctors, let the receptionist know immediately that you have a vaccine requiring refrigeration.

If the trip from the chemist to the doctor is going to take longer than half an hour, follow the instructions below for safe transport of your vaccine/s:

- Bring to the chemist a cool-a-bag or small esky. Otherwise ask for a cryovac bag.
- Do not take vaccine out of its packaging.
- Keep the cool-a-bag or esky out of direct sunlight and in a cool place.
- Do not keep the vaccine in a cool-a-bag or esky for a prolonged period of time.
- **Tell your doctor if the vaccines/s has not been kept cold, has been exposed to light or has been frozen.**

It is advised that the vaccine be taken from the chemist to the GP appointment without delay. If this is not possible and the vaccine must be stored at home, follow the procedure below.

Once home, remove the vaccine from the cool-a-bag/esky and place in a less frequently used fridge (if possible) for storage. When leaving for the doctor's appointment, place the vaccine in the cool-a-bag or small esky for transport directly to the general practice.

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